

**Montana ExpoPark
Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 28, 2019**

Minutes

Members Present: Leanne Hall, Ken Thompson, Jim Sargent, Dan Miller and Cory Thompson

Members Not Present: Kelly Audet

Staff Present: Susan Shannon and Kim Lander

Commission Present: Commissioner Joe Briggs

Chairman Leanne Hall called the meeting to order at 12:28 pm in the Atrium.

1. Call Meeting to Order

a. Quorum/Roll Call

b. Review & Approval of July 16, 2019 minutes – Ken Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Jim Sargent. Motion carried.

2. Committee Reports

a. Livestock – Leanne Hall reported information from Randy Bogden about the Jr. Livestock Show & Sale at Montana State Fair.

b. Entertainment – None.

c. Events & Promotions – Jim Sargent reported the University of Providence rodeo coach is pleased with partnership at Montana ExpoPark. Susan Shannon reported on the partnership with the University of Providence Rodeo Team using the grandstand rodeo arena for practices and stalling for their students.

d. Long Range Planning – Ken Thompson reported that he has potential members for the 501(C)(3) board.

3. Financial Report

a. Montana ExpoPark Monthly Rentals – Susan Shannon reported on the event report handout and upcoming events handout.

b. 2019 Montana State Fair – Susan Shannon recapped on the press release handout and PRCA Big Sky Pro Rodeo.

c. Set a Date for Training/Education of Financials – Motion made by Dan Miller to have training on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 9:30 am in Susan Shannon's office and seconded by Cory Thompson. Motion carried.

4. Unfinished Business

a. By-laws – Attorney Review – Commissioner Briggs reported that the Cascade County Attorney has reviewed the by-laws and will send them onto the Cascade County Commission for review.

b. Conflict of Interest Statement – Attorney Review – Commissioner Briggs reported that the conflict of interest statement has also been reviewed by the Cascade County Attorney.

c. Handbook for New Board Members – None.

5. New Business

a. Elect a New Vice-Chairman – A motion was made by Dan Miller for Ken Thompson to assume the role of Vice-Chairman and it was seconded by Jim Sargent. Motion carried.

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b. Review the Role of an Advisory Board Member – Leanne Hall read the ExpoPark Advisory Board description that she got from the Cascade County website. Open dialogue amongst the Advisory Board and Commissioner Briggs about the Advisory Board role and what it looks like. Commissioner Briggs suggested the Commission have quarterly meetings with the Advisory Board

c. Appoint the New Board Members to Committees - Cory Thompson will sit on the Entertainment and Long-Range Planning Committees. Dan Miller will sit on the Livestock and Events & Promotions Committees.

d. Report from New Board Members (2019 Montana State Fair perspective) – Dan Miller reported he had taken a lot of notes and spoke to several people. He had suggestions to grow the commercial & food vendors and the Jr. Livestock Show & Sale. Positive feedback on the PRCA Big Sky Pro Rodeo, the art exhibits and the array of artists and the variety that Montana State Fair offers. Cory Thompson reported he saw the Montana State Fair in a different light being an Advisory Board member and we deserved to be called the State Fair. He had suggestions on pricing, increasing communication, website updates and utilizing an app.

e. Set a Date for the Annual Fair Review – Dan Miller made a motion to have the annual fair review on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 9:30am in the Atrium Building and it was seconded by Cory Thompson. Motion carried.

6. Commissioners Report – Commissioner Briggs reported on the consultation meeting for new arena and talked about budget constraints for this fiscal year.

7. Public Comments

a. Agenda items – None

B. Non-Agenda Items

Community Member Richard Gall – Spoke on behalf of the Son's of Norway food vendor booth. He expressed his concerns about gate prices, food vendor percentages, food vendor workers having to pay gate admission and about their non-profit status. Suggested to work with families to afford to come to the Montana State Fair. Richard has discussed with the Cascade County Commission and no one will listen.

Community Member Garla Boland – Spoke on behalf of the Son's of Norway food vendor booth. All she hears is how no one can afford to come to the Montana State Fair. Suggested to lower gate prices and fair goers will make up the difference in purchasing more food.

Community Member Rose Stone – Spoke on behalf of BIC Concessions - Lemonade Stand. She reflected on the black roses she delivered to Susan Shannon after fair in 2018, and talked about all of her idea's that she suggested. Her biggest concern is attendance at the Montana State Fair. Food vendors are very happy with Susan Shannon's performance and very gracious. Open dialogue about ideas for fair. Discussed the Montana Fair Valu-Pass and food vendors do not receive enough gate admission tickets. Asked about delay in her contract and why it came from the County Attorney. Advised by Commissioner Briggs to reach out to the County Attorney. Perception of the fair is not good, marketing was okay and should have been done differently. Afternoon carnival wristband promotions with the Great Falls Tribune are not at a good time and she did not know about the lunch special pricing at the gate from 11am to 4pm, Monday – Friday at \$4.

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Community Member Mike Mader – Spoke on behalf of TropiCool Dessert Isle. Mike had the opportunity to visit other fairs. Spoke about their issues of dropping the number of days, having only one-night show and the money difference in counties. The Montana State Fair has a lot of positives and deserves to be the State Fair. Susan Shannon did a fantastic job.

8. Announcements – None.

9. Next Meeting – September 25, 2019

10. Adjourn Meeting - It was moved by Jim Sargent and seconded by Cory Thompson at 1:54pm. Motion carried.

Minutes Approved:

Director of Montana ExpoPark

Board Chair

Date: _____

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Lander
9/4/19